



2006 Regional Vendor Forum

Doing Business with Public Agencies

The City of Bellingham, the Port of Bellingham and the EDASC/Procurement Technical Assistance Center in collaboration with several public agencies in the region, will host the 2006 Regional Vendor Forum on Wednesday, October 11, 2006. This networking and information gathering event is designed to acquaint businesses with the contracting and procurement opportunities in construction, consulting, goods and services offered by public agencies in the Whatcom County region.

Agency representatives will provide information about upcoming purchasing and contract needs, as well as explaining the processes for listing your business on a variety of purchasing rosters. You will have an opportunity to get your specific questions answered by contracting and procurement experts. In addition, the Forum will provide a unique opportunity to form alliances by exchanging resources and ideas with other businesses.

Along with information about procurement processes, agencies such as the State of Washington Minority & Women Business Enterprises, (MWBE), US Small Business Administration, Economic Development and others will be on hand to discuss various resources available to assist businesses.

The 2006 Regional Vendor Forum will be held at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal located at 355 Harris Street, Bellingham, Washington 98225. The Forum will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 on Wednesday, October 11, 2006. There is no need for registration the forum is free. For additional information, please call the City of Bellingham Purchasing Office at 360-676-6870.

The following agencies will be represented at the forum:

The City of Bellingham	Port of Bellingham
Whatcom Transportation Authority	Bellingham Technical College
Whatcom County	Western Washington University
Wash State Department of Transportation	State of Washington Office of MWBE
Bellingham Public Schools	Skagit/Whatcom Economic Development
State of Washington Office of Procurement	Public Utility District # 1
WWU-Small Business Development Center	
US Small Business Administration	
EDASC/Procurement Technical Assistance Center	

Participants will:

- Learn about upcoming contracts throughout the region.
- Meet the staff who facilitate the contracting process.
- Learn how the contracting process works in the various agencies.
- Meet resource people who can help your company thrive.
- Connect with agency experts in public contracting and procurement.
- Learn the process for getting your business listed on various purchasing rosters.
- Network with other businesses.
- Initiate relationships for future sharing and partnering.